

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 9-15 are in the application. Claims 9-15 have been amended.

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 USC §112, stating that it was unclear whether the codes represented a type of material and how the material is contained in the hard metal. Applicant has amended claims 11 and 12 to recited that the hard metal or chilled cast iron material consists of these elements. G20, CG37 and GC20 are known types of wolfram (tungsten) carbide with a cobalt binding agent, and GGH and SoGGH are known chilled cast iron materials.

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Ricco, and rejected claims 11, 12 and 15 as being unpatentable over Ricco in view of Nishioka et al. Claim 13 is rejected as being unpatentable over Ricco in view of Inayoshi. Claim 14 is rejected as being unpatentable over Ricco

in view of Inayoshi and further in view of Hamutcu. Applicant respectfully traverses.

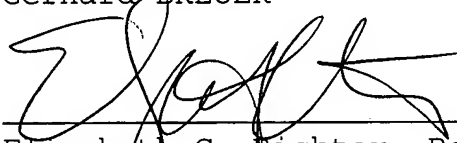
Ricco discloses a piston footplate (shoe 66) made of steel or bronze and having a layer of self-lubricating material comprising lead or polytrafluorene layer on top. (see col. 3, lines 21-24).

The present invention claims wear-resistant materials consisting of hard metal, cast carbide material or cermet, to overcome wear that can occur as a result of adhesion, abrasion and surface spalling. This wear, which is caused by significant stress peaks because of deformation under load, can be prevented by using materials having a significantly higher modulus of elasticity, such as those claimed in claim 9. In contrast, the materials of Ricco, i.e., lead or polytetrafluorene, have a much lower modulus of elasticity and do not prevent wear on the piston footplate. The surface of Ricco that contacts the surface of the running roller does not consist of a hard metal, a cast carbide material or cermet. This corresponding surface in Ricco is lead or polytetrafluorene, which does not fall into any of the claimed

categories.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 9-14 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerhard BREUER



Elizabeth C. Richter, Reg.No. 35,103
Attorney for Applicant

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

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Amy Klein